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Chairperson: Mr. Park In-kook ..... (Republic of Korea)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Statement by the Chairperson

1. **The Chairperson** noted that numerous unprecedented global crises posed a serious threat to the international community's efforts to achieve global peace and prosperity and might reverse the development gains of decades. Nations must find common ground and act together. Indeed, the importance of multilateralism and collective action had been a common theme in the general debate in plenary. As various speakers had stated, it was time for renewed multilateralism and a stronger, more united United Nations. Many of the current challenges fell within the purview of the Committee. Member States must cast aside their differences and work together to craft collective responses and to chart a path towards sustainable development. The task ahead was daunting, but much could be achieved if the current political momentum was seized. The Committee Bureau and secretariat would work hard to support the Committee in its endeavours.

2. Climate change was the pre-eminent issue of the twenty-first century. The Summit on Climate Change, held in September 2009, had attested to the gravity of global warming and the urgent need for action. As the Secretary-General himself had said, failure to reach broad agreement at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009, would be morally inexcusable, economically short-sighted and politically unwise. The Committee must make a strong call for the adoption of a successful global climate change agreement at that meeting. The Committee Bureau and secretariat would be organizing a number of side events on climate change.

3. The global financial crisis demonstrated the urgent need to revitalize the international financial system. Despite some signs of recovery, the crisis was far from over in many countries. The Committee must send a clear message on how best to address the impacts of the crisis and set a path towards a more equitable and stable international economic and financial order. To prevent similar crises in the future, a number of global initiatives had been introduced to address the underlying inadequacies of that order. The Committee should avoid duplication and create synergies among those initiatives, while duly reflecting the views of all Member States.

4. As the international community began preparing for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September 2010 to review the progress made on the Millennium Development Goals, it should reflect on lessons learned and consider how the meeting could strengthen international support for those Goals.

5. Though food prices had stabilized, the global food crisis continued. Food shortages could be catastrophic, as they rapidly affected many people. While more effective humanitarian responses were vital, the issue of food security must also be addressed from a long-term perspective, by emphasizing sustainable agricultural development. In that connection, he welcomed the decision by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to convene a World Summit on Food Security in Rome in November 2009.

6. The many issues under consideration would be the subject of a major global event in the near future. He was confident that, with constructive approaches, the Committee would be able to contribute to that event by injecting new ideas and by galvanizing momentum for action.

Statement by the Deputy Secretary-General

7. Lastly, the Committee Bureau and secretariat would be organizing a series of special events during the session. Panellists would be selected on the basis of balanced geographical representation and their experience and views. Details of those events would be distributed soon. He looked forward to the active and constructive participation of all delegations.

8. **Ms. Migiro** (Deputy Secretary-General) said that, while the world economy was finally stabilizing, the recovery process was shaky and unemployment was still high around the world. An additional 100 million people could fall into poverty by the end of the year. The H1N1 influenza virus had been identified in 180 countries, and it was spreading.

9. Climate change remained one of the most pressing challenges of the day. Developed countries recognized that they must take radical measures to reduce their own emissions and provide financial and

technological support to developing countries for adaptation and mitigation.

10. While the Group of 20 (G-20) leaders had taken decisions that had played an important role in mitigating the financial crisis, a more inclusive decision-making process would be critical to ensure implementation and a fair and balanced regulatory framework. Therefore, the collaboration between the G-20 and the United Nations must be institutionalized.

11. Various United Nations bodies were working to address the food crisis, counter protectionism and advance the conclusion of the Doha Round. The Green Economy Initiative was based on the premise that investing in green sectors was beneficial both economically and environmentally. Other initiatives focused on decent work, social protection, technological innovation, investment incentives and strong legal frameworks. Work was being done at the highest level to allow the poor and vulnerable a greater voice and to work for legal empowerment of the poor.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

12. **Mr. Sha** Zukang (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the multiple crises which threatened development also had implications for peace, security and human rights. The global financial and economic crisis, the worst in 70 years, had come on top of energy, food security and climate change crises. The implications had been clearly articulated by the United Nations system — and they were alarming. Evidence indicated that, in 2009, global trade would fall for the first time in 27 years; unemployment would increase worldwide; global gross domestic product (GDP) would decline; up to 100 million more people than had been expected before the crisis would be trapped in poverty; more pressure would be placed on already strained natural resources; and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals would be set back, impacting the poor and the vulnerable most severely. Despite unprecedented international cooperation and tentative signs of recovery, there was no room for complacency. Neither should concerted actions be rolled back. Furthermore, the need was not only for fiscal and monetary stimulus.

13. The recovery must be sustainable and green and must advance an integrated approach to the multiple crises. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs supported the call for a global green new deal for sustainable development, which would enable large-scale transformational investments in energy production and use, provide skills training and transfer, and create millions of green jobs in developed and developing countries. More broadly, the crisis response must be aligned with long-term investments in clean energy, food security and poverty reduction in developing countries, to help generate concrete progress towards both development and climate goals, which must go hand in hand. The recent G-20 agreement to establish a framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth was welcome if it meant pursuing a global growth path with low emissions and high growth for developing countries. Such a path was the focus of the World Economic and Social Survey 2009 and of the Department's related policy briefs, which were designed to assist Member States in reaching agreement at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December. The Committee would also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on climate change and its possible security implications, which showed sustainable development to be the most effective threat minimizer and especially important for strengthening adaptive capacity in the most vulnerable countries.

14. The systemic roots of the crisis must be addressed and efforts to reform the international financial architecture redoubled. Strengthening institutional frameworks so as to address the potential impact of volatile capital flows and unfettered markets more adequately and effectively was an urgent task. The important steps promised by the G-20 needed to be incorporated in national legislation. Moreover, it would be difficult to achieve a balanced global economy without also reconsidering the global reserve system in the longer term.

15. Moving towards a multilateral framework to ensure balanced and sustainable growth — an approach long advocated by his Department — would require accelerated progress on global economic governance reform. Developing countries must have more commensurate voice and participation in the multilateral financial institutions to ensure the latter's legitimacy and effectiveness. The serious lack of coherence between the international trading system and the international monetary and financial system must also be addressed.

16. Protectionism would only impede global recovery, as trade remained a critical source of finance for developing countries. All parties must be serious about concluding the Doha Development Round in 2010 and about giving it a development perspective. The hurdles to climate change-related technology transfer posed by intellectual property rights must also be overcome.

17. It was important to ensure that the poorest countries not only benefited from but also contributed to global recovery, by providing them with adequate development finance. He urged donor countries and international organizations to step up debt relief, maintain official development assistance (ODA) and ensure timely, stable and effective resource flows. In the current time of crisis, it was also important to develop innovative sources of financing, given the potential for large-scale funding.

18. Employment and social protection were essential not only to contain the negative impacts of the crisis, but also to reduce poverty. Indeed, creating employment and decent work for all — a theme of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty — was essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as was protecting and expanding the gains made in advancing gender equality and empowering women, who played a critical role in development. The ongoing response to the financial crisis must include gender-sensitive investments in physical and social infrastructure and employment and should take into account paid and unpaid work.

19. United Nations system entities were working together to address the current multiple challenges through nine new joint initiatives, which served as a strategic framework for the system's response to the global financial and economic crisis. The United Nations was already responding to the challenge of deeper reform of the global economic and financial system. Both the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha in November/December 2008, and the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York in June 2009, underscored the importance of inclusive global governance. He trusted the Committee would help build on that momentum. The urgency of implementing those outcomes could not be overemphasized.

20. The Committee would also have the opportunity, at the current session, to carry forward the General Assembly's work in promoting greater system-wide coherence within the United Nations. His Department would work with other United Nations system entities to develop further proposals aimed at improving the governance of operational activities, as requested by the Assembly. The need to increase national ownership and to maximize the impact of operational activities was more urgent than ever, as the economic crisis fuelled new needs in developing countries and eroded the financial base of the United Nations.

21. The Organization must stay fully engaged nationally, regionally and internationally if it was to stem the reversal of developmental gains and to seize the opportunity to build a more balanced, stable, prosperous and sustainable future for the world. In doing so, it must ensure the coordinated combined effort of all stakeholders: developing and developed countries, civil society, the private sector and international organizations. He and his team would make every effort to facilitate the important work of the Committee, which they stood ready to serve.

General debate

22. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to begin its general debate.

23. **Mr. Mohamad** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the effects of the global financial and economic crisis continued to unfold in developing countries, revealing serious multidimensional challenges, adversely affecting their economies and people, eroding hard won gains and sending millions of people into poverty. Global unemployment was expected to remain above 6 per cent in 2009 and 2010. In the worst case scenario, another 6 million people would become unemployed. Furthermore, it was estimated that, in 2009, 53 million people would fall below the poverty line and the number of hungry would increase by over 105 million. Consequently, more attention must be paid in all areas of development cooperation to the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, African countries, middle-income countries, low-income countries and countries emerging from conflict.

24. Developing countries bore the brunt of the effects of the crisis, despite not being responsible for it. While the recent United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development had been an important step, more needed to be done. Substantial new and additional financial resources must be made available, as a matter of priority, to developing countries. In addition, developed countries should make every effort to fulfil their commitments in such areas as debt relief, ODA, capacity-building and technology transfer, to help developing countries address the effects of the crisis and ensure sustained long-term growth and development. The Committee must ensure vigorous follow-up to the Outcome of the Conference both at the United Nations and in the relevant international financial institutions. The Group looked forward to beginning the substantive work of the ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly established to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome.

25. The current crisis had highlighted the urgent need for substantive and comprehensive reform of the international economic and financial system and architecture, including the mandates, scope and governance of the international financial institutions, which must have a clear development orientation. The Group would continue to call for an open, inclusive and transparent reform process.

26. Food security remained a critical global challenge. To be successful, strategies to defeat hunger should promote stronger and more accountable institutions, stable global markets, enhanced market access for agricultural products from developing countries, elimination of subsidies by developed countries, sustainable investment in agricultural production and research, and targeted support for the advancement of the agricultural sector in developing countries. Commodity markets should be stabilized and should not be subject to speculation and volatility.

27. The Group welcomed the addition of an agenda item on agriculture development and food security and the decision to convene the World Summit on Food Security in Rome in November 2009; supported Brazil's offer to host a summit on sustainable development in 2012; and looked forward to a successful outcome of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Nairobi in December 2009.

28. Developed countries must demonstrate the political will and flexibility needed to break the current impasse in international trade negotiations with a view to concluding the Doha Round by 2010 and achieving an early, successful and development-oriented outcome focused on the needs of developing countries. Developed countries must also fulfil the commitments they had made in the context of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.

29. He called on developed countries to undertake ambitious commitments under the Kyoto Protocol for subsequent commitment periods beyond 2012 and urged the international community to assist developing countries in addressing the consequences of climate change and in meeting their adaptation needs. Solving the climate crisis was an integral part of meeting overall sustainable development objectives. The Group was committed to working closely with all delegations to devise action-oriented resolutions and decisions that addressed challenges with the urgency, certainty and resources required.

30. **Mr. Örnéus** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the current global economic and financial crisis had been aggravated by the adverse effects of climate change. The prospects of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, were in jeopardy. The signs of recovery were tentative and did not apply to all countries. The Committee must, therefore, focus on responding to the crisis and its impact on development. The Committee's deliberations offered an opportunity to discuss policy options aimed at supporting the most vulnerable and preventing a repetition of the crisis and opportunities for new approaches, such as green recovery and new technologies for low-carbon growth. The Committee could build on the discussions and outcomes of a number of recent United Nations events. Its deliberations should also benefit from the outcomes of other relevant forums.

31. The European Union was committed to supporting recovery and long-term development in developing countries. It stood by its ODA commitments and reaffirmed that the principle of aid

effectiveness should guide all development actors. It remained committed to Africa and would continue to build on the positive changes there in the last decade.

32. The European Union had taken a firm stance against protectionism and continued to press for progress in trade liberalization and further integration of developing countries in the multilateral trading system. Others should follow its example and provide duty- and quota-free market access for all products from all least developed countries. Aid for trade was essential in helping the poorest developing countries overcome the constraints affecting their own trading potential. Overall public sector stimulus support to the European Union economy in 2009 and 2010, projected at around 5 per cent of its combined GDP, would help spur developing country exports.

33. For recovery to be sustainable and lead to decent work for all, attention should be paid to creating more inclusive labour markets, active labour market policies, and quality education and training programmes in all countries. As growth returned, individual countries must ensure that employment recovered quickly. In that connection, the European Union welcomed the Global Jobs Pact recently adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

34. An important part of achieving sustainable growth and a stable financial system was the ongoing reform of the international financial institutions' governance systems. The European Union recognized the need to increase the voice, quota and representation of countries currently underrepresented in the Bretton Woods institutions and supported the reform process under way there.

35. The natural resource base for life and development was increasingly imperilled. Despite the target of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss significantly by 2010, substantial and largely irreversible biodiversity loss persisted. Societies must change the way they produced and consumed if sustainable development was to be achieved. Following the agreements reached at the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in May 2009, the European Union looked forward to the next implementation cycle. The European Union welcomed the proposal to hold a high-level event on sustainable development in 2012 and was prepared to engage actively in discussions about it. For such an event to be meaningful, there must be broad agreement in the General Assembly.

36. The world was on the threshold of a major transition to a global low-carbon economy. Policies aimed at addressing climate change, poverty eradication and economic competitiveness must be identified and implemented. Renewable energies and energy efficiency were key to supplying sustainable energy and combating climate change. It was time for the international community to make the commitments needed to limit global warming to under 2°C. At the same time, there was a need to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and to offer swift and adequate support to the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

37. The European Union welcomed the determination shown by world leaders at the recent Summit on Climate Change urgently to address climate change, as well as their support for increased action and financing. The pace of negotiations must be accelerated so that an ambitious, global and comprehensive agreement could be reached at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. The European Union was ready to engage positively in discussions on the related resolution and make a constructive contribution to the Conference.

38. Support for the least developed countries remained a priority for the European Union. The new Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System (GIVAS) would boost collective efforts to monitor the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable. Food security was a fundamental requirement for the well-being and economic and social development of any society, and hunger and malnourishment seriously affected future generations. It was important to focus on long-term and sustained efforts to ensure food security for all people. The European Union was ready to intervene quickly in the event of humanitarian emergencies. It welcomed the food security initiative endorsed at the Group of Eight (G-8) Summit held in L'Aquila, Italy, in July 2009 and the commitments made to mobilize $20 billion over three years. The upcoming World Summit on Food Security, to which the European Union attached great importance, should have one clear high-level political objective: to launch a new system of governance for global food security. Reducing disaster risk and accelerating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action was also critical to social and economic development.

39. Many children had difficulties accessing proper health care and education owing to a lack of documentary proof of their existence, while many working poor were at risk of exploitation owing to their dependence on the informal sector. The legal empowerment of the poor was not only necessary; it was also an effective way of strengthening the capability of individuals and groups seeking a way out of poverty. The European Union supported the addition of an agenda item on that issue.

40. The ratification by 137 countries of the United Nations Convention against Corruption illustrated the international community's determination to combat corruption. The European Union attached great importance to the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, to be held in Doha in November 2009, and called on all States Parties to adopt an effective, transparent and inclusive review mechanism.

41. The European Union welcomed the General Assembly's strong and unanimous support for the establishment of a new gender entity within the United Nations system and was ready to work with other Member States to finalize the remaining details. It looked forward to the upcoming commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development and to the Economic and Social Council's 2010 Annual Ministerial Review, which would focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

42. The high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September 2010 would provide an opportunity to mobilize momentum for the final stretch towards 2015, the target year for attaining the Millennium Development Goals. Progress had been made in that respect, but it was uneven and had been jeopardized by the multiple global crises. A strong, global commitment to combating poverty was needed. Many of the issues to be discussed by the Committee directly affected countries' ability to achieve the Goals.

43. The United Nations must strengthen its operational activities so as to deliver more effectively and efficiently in support of developing countries' national priorities. The Committee could build on the triennial comprehensive policy review and on previous discussions and resolutions relating to system-wide coherence. The European Union looked forward to continuing that work.

44. Lastly, the European Union supported the Chairperson's intention to improve further the Committee's working methods. The rationalization of the Committee's programme of work should continue, as should the rational division of work between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Special events played an important role in improving the Committee's deliberations, but the Committee's already heavy programme should not be overburdened by too many of them. The European Union supported the timetable established. The Committee should conclude its work in time for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, both in December 2009.

45. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the impact of the economic crisis on his region had been severe. There had been sharp declines in tourism revenue, remittances and commodity prices and demand. Unemployment had spiked. While in the developed world there were signs of recovery, the crisis had only just begun in the Caribbean, and the worst might be yet to come.

46. The G-20 had failed to recognize the needs of small, highly indebted economies which were classified as middle-income countries. It was wrongly assumed that such countries did not require international assistance. Per capita GDP was an insufficient indicator for determining access to concessionary financing. Broader criteria should be used. CARICOM therefore welcomed the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, which had provided a forum for small, vulnerable countries to contribute to global discussion of issues of concern. Expeditious follow-up was expected on such matters as the provision of new resources to assist developing countries and evaluation of the criteria to measure the economic sustainability of middle-income countries.

47. At the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, CARICOM would not be party to an agreement which lacked concrete commitments on adaptation and mitigation, capacity-building, technology transfer and the provision of financial resources to assist developing countries in addressing climate change. The viability of small island developing States must be preserved.

48. CARICOM was heartened by the inclusion of the agenda item on agriculture and food security for consideration by the Committee.

49. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the least developed countries, said that the Millennium Development Goals should not be compromised because of the financial crisis, and that the review of their implementation in 2010 should give special attention to the plight of the least developed countries. The national and G-20 economic packages were too weak to cover the special needs of the least developed countries. Distortionary and protectionist measures in those packages which affected the least developed countries should be discouraged.

50. The Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 should be seriously implemented in the time remaining, as should the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

51. A climate change agreement must be reached in Copenhagen, with special consideration given to the small island nations and those in the ice-melting zones of the Himalayas. A concerted preparatory process should be launched leading up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries scheduled for 2011.

52. The global food crisis ought to be addressed through increased food supply and sustainable agricultural development. The right to food must become a reality. The stalled Doha Round of the World Trade Organization negotiations should be relaunched and completed, and duty-free and quota-free access to the products of the least developed countries in the markets of the developed countries should be implemented.

53. **Mr. Natalegawa** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the work in the Committee must take into account the fact that the poor had been hardest hit by the economic crisis. The call by the G-20 to shift IMF quota shares from overrepresented to underrepresented countries by January 2011 was a critical step. The Second Committee should contribute to efforts to establish an early warning system to avoid another global financial crisis.

54. Regional financial sector cooperation was an important complement to global cooperation for sustainable growth and to promote a resilient financial system. More coordinated action by developed and developing countries was a vital step to restore financial stability. There should be a mechanism for soliciting the views of non-members of the G-20, as post-crisis reforms would affect most economies in the global financial system.

55. Second Committee deliberations on the agenda item on agriculture development and food security should address reform of the global food and agriculture economy and take into account the impact of climate change, especially on small farmers and fishermen. ASEAN had committed to food security as a matter of permanent and priority policy and was strengthening regional food security through the establishment of a rice reserve as a permanent mechanism in the region.

56. The adverse effects of climate change should be addressed on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities and national circumstances. The transition to low-emission growth required cooperation between developed and developing countries. The issues of forests and oceans should be mainstreamed into climate change discussions.

57. ASEAN had made progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in primary education, gender equality and combating some infectious diseases. However, there was concern that the current crises would set back progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Attainment of the Goals should be actively monitored.

58. **Mr. Bhaila** (Sri Lanka) said that, as a result of the economic crisis, up to 99 million more people would be living in extreme poverty than had been previously anticipated. A slight drop in food prices from the previous year had done little to alleviate hunger. The move to generate biofuels had reduced the amount of arable land available for food production.

59. Leaders in the South Asian region had decided to establish a regional emergency food reserve. However, such efforts must be complemented by improved seeds, irrigation, timely fertilizer supplies, post-harvest crop preservation methods and more investments in agricultural research and technology. In Sri Lanka, there was a nationwide initiative to cultivate all arable land and provide the necessary infrastructure and other support to stimulate farming in rural areas.

60. Developed countries must accept their historic responsibility for the problem of global warming. There was a need to develop an independent mechanism to respond to the carbon debt of the historical mass polluters, which continued to occupy the carbon space of developing countries. Developing countries should receive adequate support through financial and technical mechanisms to enhance adaptation and mitigation.

61. Since the tsunami in 2004, Sri Lanka had made progress in disaster management, passing a disaster management law, adopting a disaster reduction road map with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and putting in place a disaster warning network.

62. The reduction of 15 per cent in foreign direct investment in 2008 due to the financial crisis was cause for concern and must be reversed in order to rectify the effects of the economic crisis on developing economies. Developing countries must be better represented in the international financial institutions. Those institutions' capacity for surveillance of irresponsible financial behaviours was crucial to the prevention of future crises.

63. Remittances from migrant workers were a key source of revenue for developing countries. International migration was integral to development. Increased commitment to and compliance with international regimes to protect and promote the welfare of migrants were called for. Migrant remittances were private and could not be a substitute for ODA.

64. Sri Lanka was on track to fulfil several Millennium Development Goals. The country had 95 per cent primary school enrolment and a 95 per cent literacy rate among youth. Life expectancy was up and child mortality was down.

65. **Mr. Sumi** (Japan) said that, while the worst of the crisis seemed to be over, it was still difficult to predict the future prospects of the global economy. The vulnerable had been hard hit and unemployment continued to rise in many countries. The United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development had been timely and useful.

66. A priority of the new Japanese Government was to promote a solid recovery and sustainable growth by enhancing domestic consumption. In the second quarter of 2009, Japan's GDP had grown for the first time in over a year, by 2.3 per cent.

67. With the largest potential for growth in the world, Asia could contribute much to reviving the global economy. Japan supported the recovery and growth of Asian economies through a wide range of tools. The international financial institutions also had a pivotal role to play in overcoming the current crisis and preventing another one. His Government welcomed the swift response of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and the reform they were undergoing. The East Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s had shown that, in times of sudden economic downturn, the vulnerable and voiceless suffered the most. In recognition of that fact, Japan was working to enhance human security and encouraged every country to adopt people-centred measures.

68. Despite the current crisis, donor countries should fulfil their development commitments so that the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals was not reversed. For its part, Japan intended to continue and strengthen the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process and to redouble its efforts to achieve those Goals. At the same time, every country should assume primary responsibility for its own development. Japan had pioneered triangular cooperation and advocated enhancing the effectiveness of South-South cooperation, which it had supported bilaterally and multilaterally. The current session must pave the way for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in September 2010 to review the progress made on the Millennium Development Goals. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the scope, modalities, format and organization of that meeting (A/64/263), in particular the suggestion that the Assembly might wish to ensure that the scope of the proposed meeting was consistent

with the Millennium Declaration and had the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals at its core, and looked forward to the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on progress achieved towards implementing the Millennium Declaration.

69. According to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2009, the encouraging trend in the eradication of hunger since the early 1990s had been reversed in 2008, owing largely to higher food prices, and a decrease in international food prices in the second half of 2008 had failed to translate into more affordable food for most people. As the largest net importer of food, Japan was very interested in the issue of food security. Participants in a side event organized by Japan and others during the plenary general debate had expressed the view that responsible investment in agriculture would harmonize and maximize the interests of receiving countries, local communities and investors. The event had been the first step in developing a set of principles and an international framework to promote such investment.

70. The fight against disease and the promotion of maternal, neonatal and child health were important components of the Millennium Development Goals. At the 2009 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, Japan had made a national voluntary presentation on global health in which it had advocated a comprehensive approach and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. As a founder of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Japan continued to participate in the struggle against infectious diseases. Just the previous month, it had decided to provide about 1.1 billion yen in emergency grant aid through the World Health Organization (WHO) to help extend vaccination against the influenza A (H1N1) virus in developing countries.

71. The United Nations system could not afford to remain fragmented, uncoordinated and weakened by inefficiency and duplication. System-wide coherence was essential. For that reason, his delegation welcomed the General Assembly resolution supporting the establishment of a new gender entity. Gender mainstreaming must be promoted in all phases of the Organization's development and humanitarian assistance activities. Simply creating a new gender entity was not, however, sufficient to ensure the coherence of the entire United Nations system. When establishing the new gender architecture, the allocation of existing resources should be rationalized and new duplication and fragmentation of the gender-related activities of different United Nations entities prevented. His delegation would continue to engage actively in discussions on the issue.

72. Protecting the planet for future generations was one of the major challenges facing the world. Japan aimed to reduce its emissions by 25 per cent by 2020, compared to the 1990 level. Japan's efforts alone could not, however, halt climate change. A fair and effective international framework involving all major economies must be established.

73. Japan was also prepared to provide more financial and technical assistance, in particular in support of adaptation efforts by vulnerable developing countries and small island developing States. Public financial assistance and technology transfer to developing countries alone would not, however, meet developing countries' needs. A mechanism was needed that both ensured the effective use of public funds and facilitated the flow of private investments.

74. In 2010, Japan would host the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Japan would continue its preparations in close cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders and was committed to ensuring that ambitious, realistic and action-oriented post-2010 biodiversity targets were established.

75. As for the proposal to hold a high-level event on sustainable development in 2012, thorough consideration should first be given to possible themes, timing and preparatory processes and to its relationship with the ongoing workplan of the Commission on Sustainable Development. His delegation would engage actively in discussions on the issue.

76. Lastly, Japan intended to redouble its efforts to promote human security. The human security-based approach aimed to protect and empower individuals so that they could fully realize their potential and live in dignity. The Committee might find it useful to adopt such an approach when it began addressing the issues before it.

77. **Mr. Liu Zhenmin** (China) said that the international community must respond to the current global crisis by attaching greater importance to development, which it must continue to promote through cooperation. Governments should build on

political consensus, strengthen the global development partnership and turn commitments into action. Developed countries should increase development assistance, lower artificial barriers to technology transfer and help developing countries enhance their capacity for sustainable development. The United Nations should increase its contribution to development and create an international environment conducive to economic development. Developing countries should enhance their capacity for independent development and explore growth modes commensurate with national conditions.

78. Addressing the global financial crisis and pushing for a robust recovery was the main task facing the international community. The parties concerned must ensure the recovery of their own economies, promote reform of the international financial architecture and emphasize the importance of increasing developing country representation and voice in international financial institutions. The international community should improve the international mechanism for promoting balanced development, help the World Bank increase development resources and strengthen its capacity for poverty reduction and development, urge IMF to establish an efficient and effective financial relief mechanism, and give priority to the least developed countries when providing financial support. The capital raised at the recent G-20 Summit should be used first and foremost to resolve development imbalances and to scale up assistance to developing countries.

79. In tackling the financial crisis, the international community should oppose trade protectionism, safeguard an equitable, free and open global trade and investment system, and undertake not to impose new restrictions on commodities, investment and services. A failed Doha Round was not conducive to the orderly operation of international trade or to the steady development of the world economy. Countries should build on the existing mandates and accomplishments of the Doha Round and ensure that it achieved its goal at an early date.

80. With regard to climate change, the international community should build on the political consensus achieved at the recent Summit on Climate Change, adopt a responsible approach to individual countries and to humanity as a whole, and endeavour to make the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference a success. In the run-up to that Conference, the international community should act in keeping with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto and adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It should also adhere to the mandate contained in the outcome of the Bali Climate Change Conference, held in 2007, strive for mutually beneficial solutions, and work to create a better world for future generations.

81. The global food crisis deserved the international community's full attention. The parties concerned should take seriously the issues of agriculture and food, strengthen cooperation and adopt an integrated approach. The international community should increase its contribution to agriculture, develop advanced technologies, resist market speculation, strengthen agricultural cooperation and improve global food output. Developed countries and international organizations should provide more agricultural assistance to developing countries, while respecting their decision-making power.

82. The Chinese people had recently celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over six decades, China had formulated and implemented a development strategy based on Chinese characteristics. While it had achieved some success in that regard, it was acutely aware that, as a developing country with a large population, it must speed up its development. China had a long way to go before it would be able to ensure prosperity for the whole population.

83. His Government attached great importance to China's economic and social development and was pushing for people-oriented, comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable scientific development. China adhered to the basic State policy of conserving resources, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. In response to the global financial crisis, his Government had unveiled a series of policy measures aimed at expanding domestic demand, adjusting the economic structure, promoting growth and improving livelihoods. In the first half of 2009, China's GDP had increased by 7.1 per cent compared to the previous year.

84. The promotion of common development had always been a key component of China's foreign policy, as had the consolidation of solidarity and cooperation with other developing countries. Though still suffering from the global financial crisis, China

was committed to implementing the measures to assist Africa announced at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, held in November 2006. China would continue to provide assistance to other developing countries in the context of South-South cooperation, to address the current crisis and to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

85. **Mr. Haroon** (Pakistan) said that it was regrettable that the breakdown in the Doha Round meant that trade could not be used to stimulate consumption, production and employment promotion, all of which were necessary to end the recession. In addition, there were growing signs of protectionism either due to the economic turmoil or under the guise of addressing climate change. Therefore, an effort involving all stakeholders was necessary to break the deadlock in those negotiations and bring the current round to a successful conclusion.

86. Climate change was a daunting issue, as it intersected with development. It would pose additional challenges in tackling poverty, improving health care, increasing food security and improving access to energy sources. Developing countries must contribute to the response to climate change by introducing low-carbon strategies into their socio-economic growth plans and undertaking voluntary mitigation and adaptation measures, subject to the availability of finance and technology transfer. Developed countries must commit to emission reductions and technology transfer.

87. His country supported new, systematic approaches to assess country vulnerability and the actions taken by relevant actors to realize the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals, as well as to monitor financial commitments made by donors.

88. Agriculture held the key to poverty reduction. There was a need to address agriculture development and food security in the context of development policy. Therefore, Pakistan had co-sponsored the resolution placing that new item on the agenda. Health issues should receive similar attention in the Committee.

89. Finally, while efficiency and effectiveness were important, they must not come at the expense of legitimacy, inclusiveness, transparency and equity, which only the United Nations could bring to the table.

90. **Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation) said that the G-20 had proven to be the central forum for discussion of current economic problems and an effective lever for advancing the global development agenda. At the same time, a way must be found for the G-20 to interact with other States. Interests could be best coordinated using the potential of the United Nations.

91. The main task of the Second Committee during the current session was to lay the foundation for groundbreaking decisions at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly with the participation of heads of State and Government to be held in September 2010. Committee decisions on macroeconomic matters should be aimed at mobilizing the resources necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

92. Because development and combating climate change were closely linked, solutions to climate challenges must be sought which would not undermine economic growth, particularly in the case of developing countries. The achievement of a consensus on climate change at the upcoming meeting in Copenhagen was crucial, and it was the role of the Second Committee to support efforts to reach that consensus. The Russian Federation intended by 2020 to reduce emissions by 10 to 15 per cent compared to 1990, reducing its total emissions by 30 billion tons over the course of 30 years. Others should take similar steps.

93. Climate change should be dealt with in the context of energy security. The Group of Eight had agreed on new legal principles for collaboration in that area in order to align the interests of energy suppliers, consumers and transit countries.

94. The Comprehensive Framework for Action prepared by the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis would serve as a good basis for initiatives to resolve the crisis. The Framework should first be implemented at the country level. Implementation could involve the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security. The United Nations specialized agencies in Rome could also be involved.

95. Industrial output and GDP were now rising in the Russian Federation, following eight months of recession, and the national economy was growing. Despite cuts to the 2009 budget, the Government had continued to fund transportation infrastructure and provide stimuli for the construction industry. At the

same time, many barriers to private enterprise had been removed in recent months, including the strengthening of anti-monopoly regulations. Improvements had been made to the banking sector. There were plans to reduce State interference in the economy and use traditional market tools, such as privatization.

96. A so-called "exit strategy" was being developed for implementation in 2010, involving improvements to legislation and corporate governance in order to boost the economy. Despite the economic difficulties, the influx of foreign direct investment during the first half of the year had been recorded at $17 billion.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.